



# Food for the Cities

Parallel Event at Istanbul +5

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## 'Role of Urban and Periurban Agriculture in Urban Food Security and Poverty Alleviation '

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June 6, 2001



# Summary of Presentation

- Urban Agriculture definition, global dimensions
- Role in urban food supply, nutrition, poverty reduction, employment
- Local & National Authorities & policy
- Cities Feeding People Program, IDRC
- Trends in Development Research

# Urban Agriculture

## a working definition



Located within (intra-urban) or on the fringe (periurban) of a town, a city or a metropolis.

Grows or raises, processes and distributes food and non-food products.

(Re)uses, on a daily basis, human and material resources, products and services found in and around that urban area.

Supplies new & different resources, products and services to that same urban area.

# Urban Agriculture



## Global Dimensions

Importance?	30% urban families farming (15% to 70% in any given city)
Why?	Mostly home consumption, some trade
What?	Vegetables, eggs, milk, meat, fish
Where?	City land in agricultural use 20% to 60%
Who?	50% are women who need better access to land, inputs, credit, training

*Source: Urban Agriculture: Food, Jobs and Sustainable Cities, 1996 (UNDP)*

# Urban Agriculture Contributes to Total City Food Supply



Dakar, 1994-1995	43,000 t/y (vegetables)
Hubli-Dharwad, 1999	40,000 l/d (milk)
London, 1999	8,400 t/y (vegetables)
Sofia, 1999	1,000 t/d (vegetables)
Ho Chi Minh City, 1999	214,000 t/y (vegetables) 8,700 t/y (poultry) 27,900 t/y (milk) 4,500 t/y (beef) 217,000 t/y (rice)

*Source: Growing Cities Growing Food:  
a Reader on Urban Agriculture, 2000*



# Urban Agriculture Impact on Nutrition

## Farming Households have Higher Nutritional Status

Kampala	lower stunting among children <5 years
Harare-Gweru	families eat more protein-rich food growth rate among (girl) children higher
Nairobi	average protein & energy intake higher
Lusaka	30% total food consumption from UA
Accra	UA provides 1-8 months supply of family staple food and vegetables

*Source: Growing Cities Growing Food: a Reader on Urban Agriculture, 2000*

# Urban Agriculture



## Impact on Poverty Alleviation

### Cash Earnings & Savings on Food Expenses

Mexico	urban cow-shed milk production can provide 100% of household income
Lusaka	income from UA equals 3 months minimum wage
Dar es Salaam	monthly income from UA \$60 (30% greater than average salary)
Russia	income from gardening 12% of total
Sofia	28% households earn income from farming

*Source: Growing Cities Growing Food: a Reader on Urban Agriculture, 2000*



Dar es Salaam, 1999	35,000 households
Shanghai, 1999	3.6 million jobs
London, 1999	3,000 jobs
Sofia, 1999	13,400 jobs
Jakarta, 1997	100,000 jobs
Havana, 1999	117,000 jobs (full & part time)
La Paz, 1997	3,970 jobs
Nairobi, 1999	150,000 households



# Local & National Authorities

## Urban Agriculture on the Agenda



- 1993 *Toronto* International Union of Local Authorities III Congress
- 1994 *Manchester* Global Forum; International Colloquium of Mayors  
*New York* on Social Development
- 1996 *Istanbul* Habitat II; World Food Summit
- 1997 *Rome* International Colloquium of Mayors on Governance  
*New York* for Sustainable Growth & Equity
- 1999 *Rome* Food & Agriculture Organisation Committee on  
*La* Agriculture session; Growing Cities Growing  
*Habana* Food: Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda
- 2000 *Quito* Urban Agriculture in Cities of the 21st Century

# Informal Urban Economic Activities



## Recognition & Management in Africa, Asia, & Latin America

Informal human  
settlements

(Housing solutions)

from 1970s onwards

Informal employment  
(petty trading,  
cottage industry)

from 1980s onwards

Informal agriculture  
(Food & non-food  
production)

from 1990s onwards

# Growing Need for New Expertise & Capacity

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Remove constraints & enhance potential for urban agriculture to improve:

household food security,  
income generation,  
public health & waste management  
for the benefit of the urban poor.

# Development Research on Urban Agriculture: Evolving Approach



1970s - 1980s -----> 1990s - 2000

JUSTIFICATION	Knowledge-driven (scientific problem)	Intervention-driven (public issues)
RESPONSIBLE	Individuals	Institution
ENTERPRISE	Disciplinary	Multi-disciplinary
DURATION	Short-lived	Sustained
RESEARCH TYPE	Basic, descriptive, generic	Applied, prescriptive, specific
DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION	By researcher	Participatory
GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Local, one city	Regional, multiple urban settings
KNOWLEDGE BUILDING	Limited (via personal contact)	More breadth & depth (via networks)
RESULT UTILIZATION	Scientific publications	Training, advice, evaluation Multiple target publics

# Cities Feeding People Strategy



## Policy Mainstreaming

- Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA)
- Multi/bi-laterals, NGOs, universities, others

## Global Information

Resource Centre on  
Urban Agriculture &  
Forestry (RUAF)

DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH

## IDRC Dissemination of Results

Website links, research  
reports, briefs, books

## Research Training

AGROPOLIS Graduate Awards / courses

# Research for Policy Development in Urban Agriculture

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- Inventories & assessments of official initiatives in urban agriculture
- Validation of 'closing the nutrient loop' technologies for promotion
- Development of new instruments for better policy